

# Heat stroke in dogs



## What is heat stroke?

- Serious heat-related illness that can be life-threatening.
- Occurs when a dog's body temperature exceeds 105.8°F
- Dogs may experience neurologic issues and organ problems.
- Outcome depends on the temperature and duration of exposure.
- If you suspect your dog is suffering from heat-related illness, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Many dogs with heat stroke recover without lasting issues. Those with severe illness may require aggressive medical treatment

## What you can do to keep your dog healthy:

- Avoid exercise during the hottest parts of the day.
- As temperatures increase, decrease the length of walks until your dog becomes used to the heat.
- Never leave your dog inside a parked car.
- Make sure your dog has enough water and access to shade.
- Consider leaving your dog inside with air conditioning and/or fans on hot days, especially if they are older, obese, have breathing problems, or suffer from other medical conditions.

### Signs

Panting  
Fast heart and breathing rate  
Wobbly, confused  
Seizures  
Vomiting  
Diarrhea

### Cause

Non-exertional: Being in a hot environment, such as a car, or being in direct sun  
Exertional: Due to exercise, such as playing catch or running

### Treatment

Wetting the dog with room temperature water and using a fan  
Medical treatment in severe cases

*\*If your dog needs medical care, contact the Small Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*